

TWO NEW RECORDS OF THE CARIBBEAN  
MARINE TUBIFICID *KAKETIO INERI*  
RIGHI AND KANNER (OLIGOCHAETA)

Christer Erséus

*Abstract.*—*Kaketio ineri* Righi and Kanner, 1979, originally described from Bonaire in the southern Caribbean Sea, is reported from subtidal sands in Bermuda and southern Florida. The genus *Kaketio* Righi and Kanner, 1979, is supposed to be closely related to *Thalassodrilides* Brinkhurst and Baker, 1979.

---

In a recent taxonomic account of some marine oligochaetes from the Caribbean Sea, Righi and Kanner (1979) established a new genus and species of tubificid from Bonaire, *Kaketio ineri*. Two small lots of marine oligochaetes from Bermuda and Florida, received for identification by me, proved to belong to this species. The four worms, two from each area, were stained in paracarmine and mounted whole in Canada balsam. The genital region of one of the specimens from Florida was cut into two halves before mounting. Although being scanty, the new material adds valuable information as to the geographical distribution of *K. ineri*.

*Kaketio ineri* Righi and Kanner, 1979

*Kaketio ineri* Righi and Kanner, 1979:55-62, figs. 39-47.

*Type-material and type-locality.*—See Righi and Kanner (1979).

*Material examined.*—United States National Museum of Natural History Cat. No. 60130, 2 specimens from Whale-Bone Bay, Bermuda, subtidal sand, shallow water, coll. 14 Aug. 1975, by M. L. Jones; USNM 60131, 2 specimens from Buttonwood Sound, Key Largo (Monroe Co.), S of Miami, Florida, muddy sand with algae, 1-2 m depth, coll. May 1977, by R. Rehrer (University of Miami).

*Remarks.*—*K. ineri* was very carefully described and depicted by Righi and Kanner (1979). My new specimens conform well to their description in all fundamental characters, although the two specimens from Bermuda are only partially mature. The single specimen (from Florida) that is fully grown posteriorly is 15.5 mm long and consists of 74 segments. This is slightly different from the only complete specimen examined by Righi and Kanner (25 mm, 52 segments).

One of the spermathecae in one of the worms from Florida contains the

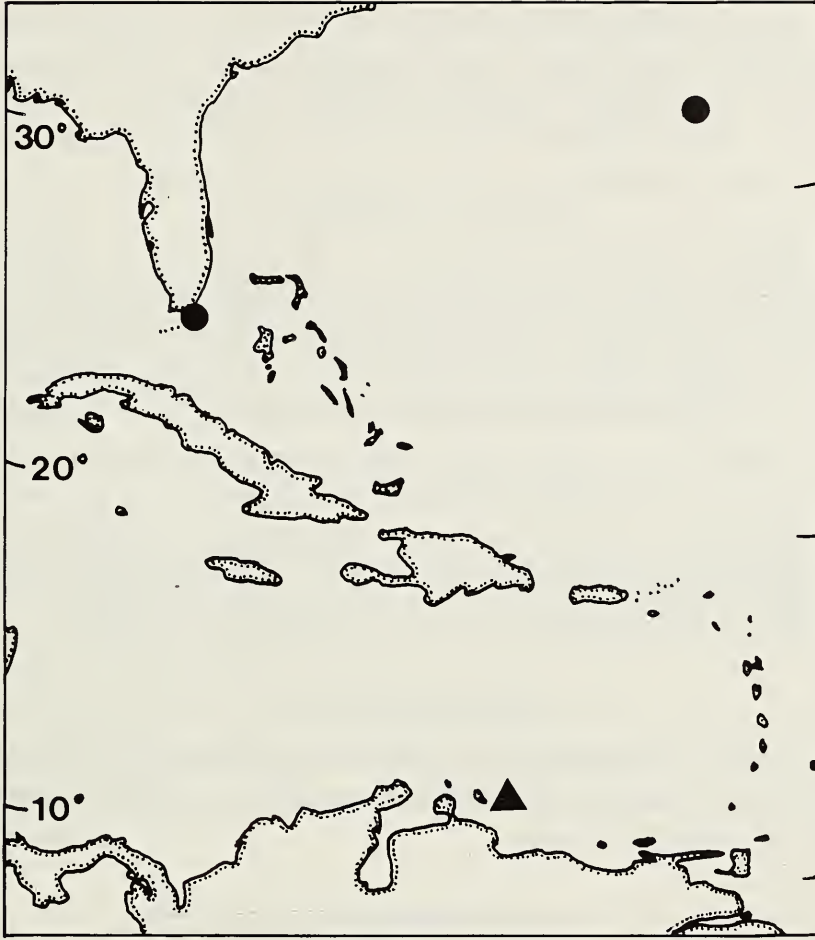


Fig. 1. Map of the Caribbean area showing geographical records of *Kaketio ineri* Righi and Kanner. Triangle = type-locality; circles = new records.

strange hyaline structure with 6 pairs of denticles which was described by Righi and Kanner (cf. their fig. 46).

*Habitat*.—Marine shallow-water, muddy sands.

*Geographical distribution*.—Known from Bermuda, Florida (new records) and Bonaire (Fig. 1).

*Discussion*.—The new material extends the known geographical distribution of *K. ineri* (Fig. 1); it can be expected to occur throughout the Caribbean.

According to Righi and Kanner, the male efferent ducts of *Kaketio*, superficially at least, resemble those of *Aulodrilus* Bretscher, 1899. However, in my opinion, *Kaketio* appears more closely related to *Thalassodrilides* Brinkhurst and Baker, 1979. [Synonym: *Curacaodrilus* Righi and Kanner, 1979. This genus name was published the same year as *Thalassodrilides*, but the publication was distributed later than that of Brinkhurst and Baker.]. Both *Kaketio* and *Thalassodrilides* are characterized by their possession of

relatively wide vasa deferentia entering more or less cylindrical atria, which bear discrete, but not stalked, prostate glands, and which terminate into glandular atrial ducts before ending in folded, eversible pseudopenes that are enclosed in large muscular sacs. It was not mentioned in the original definition of *Thalassodrilides*, but all species of that genus have a barrel-shaped, thick-walled and dilated, portion of the intestine with a plexus of fine blood vessels in segment IX (Erséus, in preparation; cf. Righi and Kanner, 1979:54). This occurs also in *K. ineri* (cf. Righi and Kanner, 1979:57), but is otherwise not common in the Tubificidae. The principal distinguishing characters of the two genera are found in the morphology of their atria. In *Kaketio*, each atrium is divided into two parallel structures: a proper atrium, which is thin-walled and narrow, and a glandular and compact body (termed "atrial diverticulum" by Righi and Kanner), which covers the ventrolateral surface of the proper atrium, and to the full length of which the prostate glands are attached. In *Thalassodrilides*, this "diverticulum" is absent, and the attachment of the prostates is not as broad as in *Kaketio*.

#### Acknowledgments

Dr. M. L. Jones (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) and Dr. G. H. Darcy (NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida) kindly provided me with the material.

#### Literature Cited

- Brinkhurst, R. O., and H. R. Baker. 1979. A review of the marine Tubificidae (Oligochaeta) of North America.—*Canadian J. Zool.* 57:1553–1569.
- Righi, G., and E. Kanner. 1979. Marine Oligochaeta (Tubificidae and Enchytraeidae) from the Caribbean Sea.—*Stud. Fauna Curaçao and Caribbean Is.* 58:44–68.

Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, and Department of Zoology, University of Gothenburg, Box 25059, S-400 31 Göteborg, Sweden.